

Asheville City Council
Planning and Economic Development Committee

2:05 p.m. – 3:15 p.m., December 13, 2006
Economic Development Office Conference Room

Minutes

Present: Councilman Jan Davis, Chair; Vice Mayor Holly Jones; Councilwoman Robin Cape. Staff members: Gary Jackson; Scott Shuford; Sam Powers; Ed Vess; Charlotte Caplan and Robert Griffin.

The Planning and Economic Development Committee met on December 13, 2006 at 29 Haywood Street at 2:05 p.m. Chair Jan Davis called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2006 Committee meeting was made by Vice Mayor Jones and seconded by Councilwoman Cape. The vote was unanimous.

2. Staff Report – Economic & Community Development Policy Direction by SEDAC

Sam powers presented the staff report. The report was to explain to the Planning and Economic Committee that the SEDAC committee is developing a Powerpoint presentation that they would like to present to the Planning and Economic Development Committee and City Council titled “The Asheville Agenda.” The SEDAC committee will be prioritizing initiatives, evaluating tools to implement the prioritized agenda, and developing metrics to benchmark progress. The objective is to develop a results based system.

A timeline was discussed with regard to the development of the presentation to the Planning and Economic Committee and full council. There was discussion about SEDAC meeting attendance focusing on efforts to get more SEDAC members involved.

Progress Report on Phase 1 of City Owner Property- Ralph and Choctaw Street

Ed Vess reviewed and explained the progression of Ralph Street and Choctaw Street. He explained staff met with representatives from Mountain Housing Opportunities (MHO) and the Green Family to discuss various contract provisions and understandings. He explained progress is being made and the final draft of the contract should be ready for recommendation to the Planning and Economic Development Committee on January 10, 2007.

3. Updates and Status Reports

Public Restrooms- Sam Powers discussed the schedule in reopening the public restrooms downtown, which will be manned at all times. The location of these restrooms will be in the Development Buildings on Haywood Street- Rankin Garage access. He explained the scheduled date for reopen is March 2007. He discussed the remaining steps, once construction documentation is completed, includes the city's formal bidding process and bid award. Councilwoman Cape asked for cost alternatives in the future.

Comprehensive Way Finding Program- Sam Powers discussed and gave an update on the Way Finding project. City staff with Dan Baechtold serving as the project manager is coordinating the city's participation in the project. He explained the RFQ has been issued with a due date of December 2006. He also noted that the City of Asheville and Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority (TDA) and its contract agent, the Asheville Convention Bureau is in a partnership with the City of Asheville; Buncombe County government; the Town of Black Mountain; Asheville Regional Airport; and representatives of cultural districts and area destinations.

Planning Initiatives- Scott Shuford gave updates on numerous topics including Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) changes and various planning initiatives for the year. The following is an overview of updates for 2007.

January 2007: Steep slope, open space, retaining walls, landscaping and Adaptive reuse overlay

February 2007: Nonconformities, Development Incentives, and mixed use overlay

March 2007: Shiloh Neighborhood Park; sign code and Merrimon Avenue Plan

4. New Business

There was discussion of College Street office-building site revised from ten stories to four. Parking question need to be addressed.

5. Public Comment

None

Regular meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

6. Closed Session - none